

IFUW

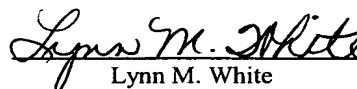


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTORS: K. Ohtaki, T. Hiramitsu, D. Dawamura,
T. Funayama, and K. Iwamoto Art Unit: 2832
APPLICATION NO.: 10/823,160 Confirmation No. 4547
FILED: April 13, 2004 Customer No. 23307
ATTORNEY DOCKET No.: 27,702 USA
TITLE: SWITCH DEVICE

Certificate of Mailing

I certify that this document is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 26, 2004.


Lynn M. White

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") supplements the IDS filed on April 13, 2004. Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is disclosed to aid the Examiner in his or her examination of the application. The inclusion of information in this Disclosure Statement and as set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 is not necessarily a concession that such information is prior art to the present invention or that such information is in an art area analogous to the present invention. Copies of the non-U.S. Patent publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are submitted herewith.

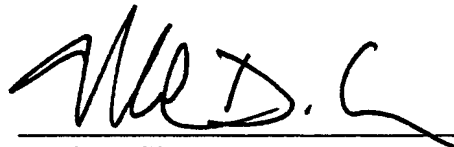
The publications cited in this Supplemental IDS were brought to Applicants' attention in a European Search Report, dated August 12, 2004, issued in corresponding EPO Application No. EP 04 25 2089. Applicants note that publication AC (U.S. Patent No. 5,836,187) is the U.S. counterpart publication of item AE (German Patent No. DE 195 20211).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial Form PTO-1449 and return a copy of same upon consideration of these publications.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, and within three months of the publications being cited in a foreign counterpart application, no fee or certification is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/26/04



Mark D. Simpson, Esq.
Reg. No. 32,942

Synnestvedt & Lechner LLP
2600 Aramark Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2950
Telephone: 215-923-4466
Facsimile: 215-923-2189

| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; transform: rotate(-15deg);"> PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE OCT 28 2004 </div> | | | | Docket Number (Optional) 27,702 USA | | Application Number 10/823,160 | | |
|---|-----|---|------------|---|-------|---|-------------------------------|----|
| | | | | Applicant(s) K. Ohtaki et al. | | | | |
| | | | | Filing Date 04/13/2004 | | Group Art Unit 2832 | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | |
| | AA | 5,823,028 | 10/20/1998 | Mizuno et al. | 70 | 278 | | |
| | AB | 6,181,025 | 01/30/2001 | McConnell et al. | 307 | 10.2 | | |
| | AC | 5,836,187* | 11/17/1998 | Janssen et al. | 70 | 252 | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | Translation | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | AD | EP 0 730 073 | 09/04/1996 | EPO (Abstract only in Eng.) | | | ✓ | |
| | AE | DE 195 20211* | 02/01/1996 | Germany | | | | ✓ |
| | AF | EP 0 967 129 | 12/29/1999 | EPO (Abstract only in Eng.) | | | ✓ | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i> | | | | | | | | |
| | AG | Partial European Search Report, issued on August 12, 2004, in corresponding EPO Application No. EP 04 25 2089 | | | | | | |
| | | * U.S. Patent No. 5,836,187 is the U.S. counterpart of German Patent No. DE 195 20211 | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | | |
| EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | | | | |